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Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210

Subject SCE&G Rate Hike Appeal

## Gentlemen:

Please see the following note (April 22, 2010) to SCE&G and their response: Santee Cooper provides low interest loans to its residential customers to improve the efficiency of their homes through their Good Cents loan program. Customers can apply for energy efficient improvement loans ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 with up to 60-months to repay loans over \$1,000. Renewable energy resource loans are also available up to \$40,000, with up to 120-months to repay the balance. These loans require no down payment. Combined maximum outstanding loans per customer cannot exceed \$40,000.

To qualify for the loan, customers must first schedule a free energy audit with Santee Cooper. The Santee Cooper representative will recommend the most cost effective conservation measures needed for the home. The loan will then be granted after the customer completes the loan application and passes a credit check.

Does SCE&G have a similar energy efficiency program? Does SCE&G plan to start a similar program in the near future? If not, why not?

Response: Currently, SCE&G has no program in place to offer energy efficiency loans to our customers. We have not decided whether we will introduce such a program in the future.

As a regulated utility, any program we might decide to develop under the legislation that was recently passed would be subject to review and approval by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. If we were to eventually develop a program to offer energy efficiency loans, we would certainly make our customers aware of the details through multiple channels.

How can the PSC approve a rate increase for such a disgraceful company? At the very least any approved rate increase must include a mandate that requires SCE&G to offer an energy efficient loan program to all customers.

Sincerely,

Wolan P. Welborn